

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Rural District Council of Stoke-upon-Trent,

(Public Health Act, 1875, and Local Government Act, 1894,)

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the Rural District of Stoke-upon-Trent, with the mortality statistics, for the last year ending December 31st, 1903.

The area is a very wide, scattered one—containing 4,938 acres, consisting of several villages, Bucknall, Bagnall, Botteslow, Great Eaves, Little Eaves, and Stockton Brook, containing 935 houses, so that there are 5·1 persons in each habitable building.

The census was taken in March, 1901, when the population had decreased by 10, the number enumerated was 4,808. As there has not been any material increase in the number of new houses erected, my figures are based on the last census.

The WELLS have been regularly inspected, and have had a good supply of water. The one at the Tompkin was defective for a time in consequence of some roots of trees blocking up the supply pipe, but new ones were laid down. Since that time the flow from the spring has been very good.

The COWSHEDS, MILKSHOPS, and DAIRIES have been regularly inspected; they have always been found in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are nine licensed places in the sanitary district; all have been white-washed regularly, and are kept in a cleanly sanitary condition.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are only two, at Bucknall.

The NIGHT SOIL and ASHES are removed by contract, and the work has been fairly done, and there have been very few complaints.

During the year there have been 28 notifications of Zymotic Diseases received, 12 of Smallpox (8 at Bucknall and 4 at Bagnall), 9 Diphtheria, 2 Erysipelas, 2 Scarlet Fever, 3 Enteric Fever.

ENTERIC FEVER.—One case occurred in an overcrowded house at Ubbertley Road. The other two cases were children, but no cause could be traced to the water or the milk supply.

A Special Report was made to the Council respecting the outbreak of Smallpox; one was sent to the Local Government Board, and a copy to the Medical Officer of Health of the County Council; 10 cases were removed to the Hospital at Bagnall, one severe case of Chicken-pox was isolated at home, and supplied with food and necessaries at the expense of the Local Authority. Every person who had any contact with the patient was re-vaccinated, and after the removal of each person the house, &c., was disinfected, and all bedding, clothes, &c., that was impregnated with infection were destroyed.

MEASLES.—Early in December a severe epidemic of Measles broke out at Bucknall, at the Board Schools, when the Council were advised to make an order to close them, but the epidemic spread so rapidly that the Council were asked to prolong the period for another month. Each house has been visited, a leaflet left, and disinfectant supplied. It has been a mild type of the affection, and very little mortality considering the great number of children that have been affected.

MORTALITY.

During the past year 1903 the nett deaths registered were 126, an annual rate of 26·2 per 1,000 in the estimated population. What makes the rate look so high is the great mortality at the Infectious Diseases Hospitals at Bucknall and Bagnall. If these are deducted there will be only 65 recorded in the Rural District; so that the rate would have been only 13·5. The rate for the last ten years, from 1893 to 1902 was 15·5, so that the mortality was really 2 per 1,000 less than usual.

HOSPITALS.

There are two Hospitals in the Rural District for infectious diseases, one at Bagnall for Smallpox, and one at Bucknall for Scarlatina and Diphtheria; consequently the death-rate seems high through the deaths of persons brought from other localities, and are included in the mortality list. Some statistical tables have been published during the past year, shewing that 30 per cent. of the deaths in London that occur at these Hospitals are from persons recorded outside the district. In this district in 1899 there were 34 deaths in the Hospitals; in 1900 there were 38, in 1902 there were 52, and in 1903 there were 61. In mitigation of these facts it must be stated that many of these cases are of the most malignant type, and are removed from the worst localities, and often in a hopeless condition, not having been nursed properly at the onset of the disease, and their surroundings bad from which they have been brought. Of the deaths that occurred at these Institutions, 3 were brought from Longton, 4 from Stoke, 40 from Hanley, 2 from Leek, 4 from Shelton, 3 from Burslem, 1 from Basford, and 4 from Fenton. Thirteen were of Smallpox, 11 Scarlet Fever, and 35 Diphtheria.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Attention may be directed to a most satisfactory diminished death-rate amongst children under five years of age; 57 are recorded in the mortality table, but 34 have been deducted, having taken place at the Bucknall Hospital, so that really there have been only 23, 15 under one year, and 8 from one to five years. The usual average for the last ten years has been 26.

BIRTHS.

The number of Births registered was 166 — 97 Females, and 69 Males; three of these were born out of wedlock, showing an annual rate of increase of 34·5 per 1,000 of the population.

Appended is a table showing the causes of deaths and localities. Another, of the Sanitary work done during the year by the Inspector.

JOHN SWIFT WALKER, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

Inspector's Report for Year ending December 31st, 1903.

	Inspections and Observations made	Formal Notices by Authority	Nuisances Abated after Notice
Foul Conditions	10	5	5
Unfit for Habitation	1	...	...
Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds	60	...	...
Bakehouses	8	...	...
Canal Boats	36	...	...
Ashpits and Privies	66	33	33
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	1	1	1
House Drainage—Defective Traps	28	17	17
Water Supply... ..	1	1	1
Animals Improperly Kept... ..	6	2	2
TOTALS... ..	217	59	59

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

	No.
Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	7
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	22
Schools ditto ditto	3

GILBERT McHARG, *Inspector of Nuisances.*

**Births in the Rural District of Stoke-upon-Trent during the Year
ending December 31st, 1903.**

								Born in Wedlock		Born out of Wedlock	
								Males	Females	Males	Females
Registered in Botteslow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		1		
„ Washerwall, Bucknall, and Bagnall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69	93		3
Total Number of Births Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	166			

Rural Sanitary District of Stoke-upon-Trent.

Deaths Registered from all Causes during the Year 1903.

Cause of Death							AGES.						
							All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	1	1	1	8	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	1	...	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	5	4	2	..	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	..	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	..	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	28	7	2	...	..
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	...	...	...	..	1
Enteritis	..	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	..	...
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	1	2	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	...	1	..	1	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	2	...	...	1	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	1	2	1
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	..	...	1	...	4	5
Accidents	...	...	..	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...
Rheumatism	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Old Age	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	..	...	5
Acute Nephritis	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	..	...
Apoplexy	...	..	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	2
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	..	...	...	...	2	2
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	..	...	125	15	43	16	9	24	18

Medical Officer's Annual Report

OF THE

Rural District of Stoke-upon-Trent,

For the Year 1903.
